

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-29 (Cancelled).

Claim 30 (Currently Amended) ~~The video coding apparatus according to claim 1, A~~
video coding apparatus comprising:

a coder section for generating coded information obtained by arbitrary shape coding
an input video picture as a bit stream;

an important information constructing section for extracting, from the coded
information obtained by said coder section, important information representing a rule, of
coding a set of predetermined bit streams, and constructing the important information;

a sync signal generator section for generating a sync signal; and

a bit stream constructing section for adding the sync signal output from said sync
signal generator means, an HEC code representing whether or not the important information
is duplexed and the important information constructed by said important information
constructing section to the bit stream coded by said coder section, to construct the bit stream,

wherein said important information includes a 13-bit signal indicative of an image width, a 13-bit signal indicative of an image height, a 13-bit signal indicative of an X coordinate used for image arrangement, a 13-bit signal indicative of a Y coordinate used for image arrangement, a 1-bit signal representing whether or not image information is reduced and coded, and a 1-bit signal indicative of a coding mode of the image information, said signals being arranged in the order mentioned.

Claim 31-47 (Cancelled).